

# MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY

NOT KNOWN TO  
OCCUR IN IDAHO



**Common Name:** Mediterranean fruit fly

**Scientific Name:** *Ceratitidis capitata* (Wiedemann)

## Host

Over 200 types of fruits and vegetables. Although it may be a major pest of citrus, often it is a more serious pest of some deciduous fruits, such as peach, pear, and apple.

## Description

The 1 mm long **egg** is smooth, shiny white, very slender and curved. The 11-segmented **larva** is a legless maggot, creamy white in color, and may grow to a length of 8 mm. MFF larva is pointed at the head end. The **pupa** male (brown) and female (white) is a cylindrical 11-segmented capsule, reddish brown at maturity. The **adult** is slightly smaller than a housefly with an average length of 3.5-5.0 mm. The adult has a predominantly dark body with two white bands on the yellowish abdomen. The wings have brown, yellow, black, and white markings. The female has a pointed, slender ovipositor.

## Life Cycle

Female MFF lays eggs in groups of 1-6 within the fruit, and as many as 1,200 eggs in her lifetime (average 30 days but may live 6 months). She prefers soft spots or sites where eggs have already been laid. MFs can fly short distances but winds may carry them a mile or more. The larvae tunnel through the fruit feeding on the pulp, shed their skins twice, and emerges through exit holes in 7-14 days. The mature larvae drop from the fruit and burrow beneath the soil to pupate. In 8-46 days, the adults emerge from the puparia. The newly emerged adults require from 4-10 days to mature to egg laying. Breeding is continuous, with several annual generations. Under optimum conditions the entire life cycle may be completed in 30 days, but requires longer intervals at lower temperatures

## Damage

Feeding larvae reduces interior of fruit to a rotten mass. Egg punctures admit decay organisms.

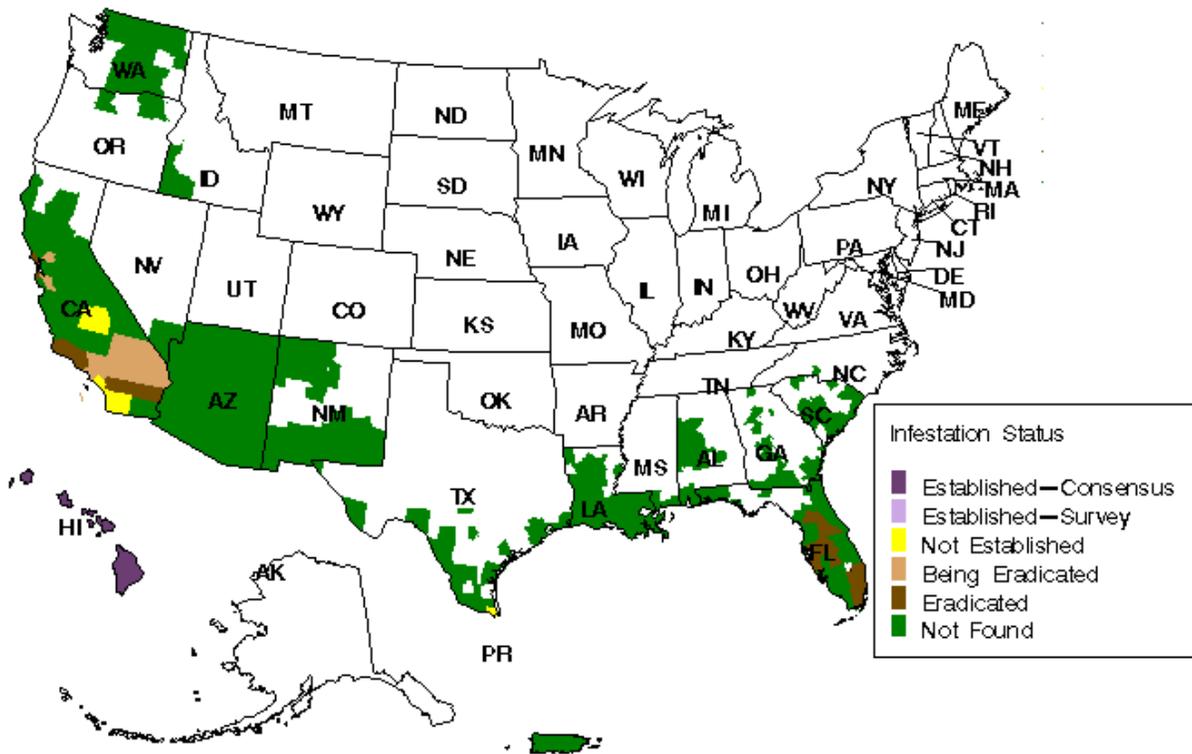
## Other Resources

<http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/Kbase/crop/Type/ceratiti.htm>

<http://www.ag.arizona.edu/crops/insects/fruitfly.pdf>

Reported Status of  
**Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medffl , *Ceratitis capitata*)**  
in US and Puerto Rico

Data retrieved from National Agricultural Pest Information System on 01/17/2012



The Center for Environmental and Regulatory Information Systems does not certify the accuracy or completeness of the map.